



# Kansas Plant Pest Alert

Kansas Department of Agriculture • Plant Protection and Weed Control • (785) 862-2180 • [www.ksda.gov](http://www.ksda.gov)

## Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut

Dear Stakeholder:

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is asking landowners, arborists, woodworkers, timber industry and the public to be on the lookout for a new disease of walnut, thousand cankers disease.

We need your help to detect this disease that threatens our black walnuts in native woodlands, planted woodlots and the landscape.

The disease may enter Kansas by the natural movement of the bark beetle or by human activity, like moving firewood, nursery stock, or untreated wood or logs.

If you think you have seen evidence of this disease, notify our Plant Protection and Weed Control program immediately at (785) 862-2180.

Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Plant Protection and Weed Control

*Pictured left: A wilted walnut in the last stages of disease. Photo courtesy of Ned Tisserat, Colorado State University.*



### What is it?

- The disease is caused by a fungus, *Geosmithia*.
- It is transmitted by the walnut twig beetle.

### Where does it come from?

- The disease is found in states west of Kansas, including Colorado and New Mexico.

### What should I look for?

- Upper crowns yellowing and thinning, then branches die and the entire tree may suddenly wilt and die. Small black cankers are just under the bark with insect galleries.
- Trees die within about three years from initial symptoms.

### Who should I call if I find it?

- Call the Kansas Department of Agriculture at (785) 862-2180.



**Do not move  
walnut trees or  
untreated wood  
into Kansas.**



*Pictured above: The walnut twig beetle is about 1/16 of an inch long. Photograph courtesy of Jim LaBonte, Oregon Department of Agriculture.*

*Pictured below: The shaved branch of thousand canker disease in advanced stage. Photo courtesy of Ned Tisserat, Colorado State University*



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